

**Table 24. Primary reason for holding postdoc for doctoral scientists and engineers,
by selected field of doctorate: 1999**

September 2002

| Reason | Field of doctorate | | |
|--|--------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------|
| | All fields | Biological and agricultural sciences | Other fields |
| Total postdocs (number)..... | 24,000 | 14,300 | 9,700 |
| Primary reason for holding postdoc | Percent | | |
| Additional training in field..... | 18 | 16 | 20 |
| Training out of field..... | 11 | 10 | 13 |
| Work with specific person or place..... | 20 | 20 | 21 |
| No other employment available..... | 16 | 15 | 18 |
| Postdoc generally expected for career in this field..... | 32 | 37 | 24 |
| Other reason..... | S | S | S |

KEY: S = Suppressed due to too few cases (fewer than 1,000 weighted cases).

NOTES: Postdoc is a temporary position awarded in academe, industry or government primarily for gaining additional education and training in research. Numbers are rounded to nearest hundred. Percents are rounded to the whole number.

Details may not add to total because of rounding. Survey of Doctorate Recipients includes persons who had earned a research doctorate from an U.S. institution and resided in U.S. as of April 1999.

SOURCE: National Science Foundation/Division of Science Resources Statistics, 1999 Survey of Doctorate Recipients